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City of Barrie

Final

International Relations Committee

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 | **6:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on September 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, M. Sachiw at 6:03 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 15 - Co-Chair – Councillor J. Harris
Co-Chair M. Sachkiw
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston
J. Babcock
T. Gardiner
C. Hassey
W. Hay
A. Jones
J. Massie
L. Palson
J. M. Pigeon
B. Sergeant
S. Scully-Pratt
K. Watson

ALSO PRESENT
C. Byles-Ho

STAFF:
City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services, W. Cooke
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

SECTION "A"

COMMITTEE BUDGET/LEGACY FUND UPDATE

Tammie Maynard, Legislative Coordinator provided an update concerning the Committee's budget.

Wendy Cooke, City Clerk/Director of Legislative and Court Services provided an update concerning the Legacy Fund held by the Barrie Community Foundation, the status of the current agreement with the Barrie Community Foundation for the Youth Ambassadors Program. Ms. Cooke provided the rationale for the creation of a new agreement with the Barrie Community Foundation for the Youth Ambassadors Program (YAP).

The Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Cooke and received responses.

The Committee described the intent of the legacy fund is to support youth who may require financial assistance to participate in the YAP. M. Sachkiw Co-Chair advised that there are three families seeking financial assistance to participate in the Global Perspectives Program.

The Committee approved an expenditure of $9,000.00 from the International Relations Committee budget to support three families participating in the Global Perspectives Program, and that the funds will be reimbursed through the Legacy Fund once a new agreement is in place.

The International Relations Committee met and recommends adoption of the following recommendation(s):

SECTION "B"

BARRIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE/ YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM - DONOR DIRECTED INVESTMENT FLOWTHROUGH FUND

That the City of Barrie's Donor Directed Investment Flowthrough Fund Agreement with the Barrie Community Foundation regarding the International Relations Committee (IRC)/Youth Ambassadors Program, be dissolved, and that a separate agreement be established between the Foundation and the IRC Youth Ambassadors Program representative(s) with no reference or involvement by the City of Barrie.

This matter was recommended (Section "B") to Finance and Responsible Governance Committee for consideration of adoption at its meeting to be held on 9/17/2025.

SECTION "C"

BARRIE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE

Ciaran Byles-Ho provided an overview of the structure of the Barrie International Partnership website.

The Committee discussed refreshing the content and reorganizing the Barrie International Partnership website to include Saginaw, Michigan. The Committee members will forward any website updates to Mr. Byles-Ho, and he will provide updates at future meetings

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economy and Creative Development provided comments related to Invest Barrie and the Barrie International Partnership website.

HARROGATE, UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning Harrogate, United Kingdom.

Mr. Sergeant advised that on October 14, 2025, the Barrie Royal Canadian Legion will be hosting a speaker on the importance of the Nine Mile Portage. Mr Sergeant did note that on Remembrance Day in Harrogate plans are for a poppy to be laid in the Stonefalls Cemetary on behalf of the City of Barrie.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair advised that there was nothing new regarding the Youth Ambassadors Program.

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning the Global Perspectives Program. He advised that youth delegation from Zweibrucken, Germany will be visiting the City of Barrie between September 25 to October 22, 2025, and that the Goodbye Party has been scheduled for October 21, 2025 at Innisdale Secondary School. Mr. Babcock will follow up at the next meeting.

Mr. Babcock advised that German Youth Delegation are scheduled to attend the City Council meeting on October 1, 2025.

Mr. Babcock commented on the Niels Brock delegation and meeting with the Mayor in October, 2025

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN UPDATE

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided an updated concerning the Saginaw Sister City Conference.

The Committee discussed opportunities to connect with Saginaw, Michigan which includes planning a get together when the Saginaw Spirit Hockey Team plays the Barrie Colts on November 13, 2025. Further discussion on this matter will take place at the next meeting.

MURAYAMA, JAPAN UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw, Co-Chair advised that he will be contacting the Consular General of Japan to reschedule their meeting with the City of Barrie.

ZWEIBRUCKEN, GERMANY UPDATE

Jean Maurice Pigeon provided an update concerning Zweibrucken, Germany. He advised that an adult delegation of six will be visiting the City of Barrie between September 14 to September 21, 2025 at their own expense. Mr. Pigeon provided an overview of the itinerary which includes a tour of City Hall and the Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

Mr. Pigeon discussed plans for a hockey team exchange between the Barrie Minor Hockey Team and Zweibrucken, Germany.

Bill Sergeant advised that May 7, 2027, will mark the 30th Anniversary of the twinning relationship with Zweibrucken, Germany, and that a celebration should be planned. Mr. Sergeant suggested having a street or even park named in honour of the relationship with Zweibrucken, Germany.

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw advised that there was no update concerning Arras, France.

Mr. Sachkiw acknowledged the 81st Anniversary of the Liberation of Arras, France, Canada and New Zealand.

SIR ROBERT BARRIE PROJECT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning the Sir Robert Barrie Project. He advised that the Barrie District Stamp Club has engaged with the Committee concerning the donation of a picture related to the HMCS Barrie K138.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN